

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a plant finished product, comprising the step of processing a plant or a processed material thereof with high-temperature and high-pressure liquid, gas, or fluid under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.
2. (Original) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is processed for 1 to 3,600 seconds with liquid, gas, or fluid having a temperature of 140 to 500°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 100 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.
3. (Original) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is processed for 10 to 1,200 seconds with liquid, gas, or fluid having a temperature of 160 to 250°C and a pressure of 0.5 to 4.5 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the liquid, gas, or fluid is derived from deaerated liquid.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein gas having an oxygen concentration of 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ is used to purge a processing container before processing.

6. (Original) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 5, wherein the gas having an oxygen concentration of 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ is an inert gas, carbon dioxide, or deoxidized gas.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is a plant containing lignin or a processed material thereof.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 7, wherein the lignin-containing plant or the processed material thereof is at least one selected from grains, trees, teas, processed materials thereof, and a by-product of mashing.

Claims 9-20. Canceled.

21. (Original) A method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin, comprising the step of processing a plant containing lignin or a processed material thereof with high-temperature and high-pressure liquid, gas, or fluid to increase the amount of vanillin contained therein.

22. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the temperature of the liquid, gas, or fluid is 140°C to 500°C and the pressure of the liquid, gas, or fluid is 0.1 to 100 MPa.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the high-temperature and high-pressure processing is carried out for 1 to 3,600 seconds.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the composition containing vanillin is a raw material of food and drink.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the composition containing vanillin is a raw material of liquors or tea drinks.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the plant containing lignin or the processed material thereof is derived from grain.

27. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 26, wherein the grain is malt.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the vanillin content of the composition containing vanillin is three times or more compared to that of the plant containing lignin or the processed material thereof before high-temperature and high-pressure processing.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, comprising a step of exposing a product obtained through high-temperature and high-pressure processing to a low pressure from a high pressure to transpire moisture and puff out the product.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein an extruder is used.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 29, wherein the composition containing vanillin is puffed out into a stick-like shape, a cylindrical column shape, a polygonal prism shape, a spherical shape, or a polyhedron shape.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the plant, the processed material thereof, or the raw material containing the plant and/or the processed material thereof is processed under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Claims 33-38. Canceled.

39. (New) A method of manufacturing a plant finished product, comprising the step of processing malt with high-temperature and high-pressure water vapor under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.